

BONE GRAFTING

Dr. A. M. Phelps' Experiment with Johnnie Gethins and the Dog Yip Unproductive of Satisfactory Results.

WHY THE BONES DID NOT UNITE.

The Principle of Transplantation Has, However, Been Established and Is Likely to Prove a Great Boon to Afflicted Humanity.

The mystery with which the recent bone grafting experiment on Johnnie Gethins and the water spaniel Yip at the Charity Hospital, Blackwell's Island, has been so ostentatiously shrouded is cleared away at last.

The Medical Record will print to-day an official account of the actual result of the experiment and the observations made in the case.

As far as the particular case of poor, plucky Johnnie Gethins is concerned, the operation was not wholly a success. The principle that it is possible to grow large masses of tissue from an animal to man, and to establish the circulation until the union takes place, is, however, according to the official report, established. It is also demonstrated that a growth of new bone takes place when a section of bone is transplanted and its nutrition maintained by the artery of the animal. A fracture would thus be united in about a month. That Yip's bone did not unite to Johnnie's was due to the fact that they could not be continued sufficiently long in contact on account of inefficient dressing, which is apt to be the case in all early experiments.

The stimulation of the graft, however, has excited a reparative process in the fracture, which now promises to unite in the meantime the boy with the tail of a canary.

Johnnie was suffering from an ununited fracture of the lower third of the leg, the result of an operation to remedy an anterior curvature of the thigh, which had existed and had slowly increased from early childhood until he was compelled to go upon crutches.

GLAD OF ANOTHER CHANCE.

After several attempts to restore the limb to usefulness, all of which were unsuccessful, a letter was written to him stating that an attempt at bone transplantation from a dog would be made if he consented. He came to the Charity Hospital, glad of another chance. At the time of the operation, November 16, 1890, the limb was in very good condition, excepting the shortening of about four inches, the result of previous operations which had been performed to unite the fracture.

It seemed a pity to amputate the leg. And yet so far as surgical knowledge of that time was concerned this was the only resort left. It was therefore felt that any experiment which would give promise of restoring the limb to usefulness and would not too greatly endanger life would be justified. Another fact that decided the physicians against amputation is that in the growing limb below the knee or in the humerus this frequently results to what is known as a conical stump. This necessarily leads to a reamputation, and many amputations have been performed from year to year in the same case for this abnormality.

A dog two years old was secured and prepared for the operation, carefully cleaned with soap and water and made aseptic with a solution of bichloride of mercury. The vocal cords of the dog were cut to prevent her disturbing the boy. The cords united, however, in two weeks.

While the patient was being anesthetized and the ends of the fractured bones freshened, Dr. Phelps, who was the operator, was in the following manner: "She was anesthetized and then enveloped in a thick layer of absorbent cotton to the thickness of several inches while placed in the position of sitting up. The dog was then placed on a table of cotton a few turns of plaster of Paris bandage were made to hold the dressing in place.

The dog was now placed in the parlor, the right fore leg of the animal protruded through the dressing. This leg was carefully shaved and again made aseptic with bichloride of mercury. The dog was then placed on a table of cotton a few turns of plaster of Paris bandage were made to hold the dressing in place.

Two elliptical incisions were made down to the fracture, four inches apart, moving the old electric and electrical tissue about the ununited ends of the bone, together with an elliptical piece of the soft parts. With a saw the dog's ribs were freshened, leaving a space of about one inch between them. The portions removed proved to be ununited and the bone was found to be ununited.

Dr. Phelps and Dr. Wood, who were the assistants, then proceeded to the operation upon the dog. The dog was then placed on a table of cotton a few turns of plaster of Paris bandage were made to hold the dressing in place.

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MAD DOG SHE SHOWS HER POWER.

Samuel Post Had Resolved to Return to His Deserted Wife and Reform His Ways.

HIS ANTE-MORTEM STATEMENT.

With Death at His Bedside He Coolly Relates the Details of His Life with Ellen Nelson.

Two striking exhibitions of nerve were furnished yesterday by Ellen Nelson and the man she tried to kill in her apartment at No. 100 West Twenty-eighth street the night before.

The woman, knowing that she had made her last effort to retain the lover who had tired of her, stood before the bar of the police justice resolutely refusing to throw any light upon the tragedy which might blacken the character of the man who had cast her aside.

The man, Samuel Post, on the other hand, realizing that his death was near, spoke calmly of his probable fate, and told the Coroner, with little or no emotion, the history of his relations with the unfortunate woman, whose silence can only be construed as the last effort of a tortured heart to make some amends for the many mistakes of her past life.

She shot him down because he wanted to leave her. She does not admit this, but on his own statement to Coroner Schultze, Post declares that he was tired of his life with the woman and wanted to go back to the woman he had wronged.

AT THE POLICE COURT.

Nothing more pathetic than the attitude of Ellen Nelson when she was arraigned before Justice Ford, in the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday, can be imagined. The natural pallor of her face was exaggerated by loss of sleep and anxiety, and her eyes were dull and glazed. She seemed unconscious of the curious glances which were directed at her.

Justice Ford asked her several questions, but the expression of her face never changed. She was evidently either too much dazed by the sudden misfortunes which had overtaken her or she did not wish to hear. From her subsequent behavior in the prison it is assumed, the latter hypothesis is correct. She did not speak a word during the proceedings, but she had addressed his inquiries to an image of marble.

Following Mr. Thompson, who stated the case to the justice, produced a line from the house surgeon of the New York Hospital which stated that the ball from Mrs. Nelson's pistol had made at least a half-inch hole in the chest, from which the hemorrhage had been profuse, and that the patient Post was in a very critical condition.

Justice Ford committed her to prison without bail, and she went out of the court without having revealed her secret.

IN THE PRISON.

Her demeanor in the prison was no less remarkable than her behavior in the courtroom. She refused to see him. She, no doubt, wished to be assured of what the man's course would be before he was released.

Very little is known about her beyond the fact that she is originally from Cincinnati, and came to New York to seek her fortune. She was a band, who was a conductor on a steam railroad. Later she lived at No. 125 West Twenty-eighth street, where she was known to her neighbors as Mrs. Post.

For a time the couple were very devoted. The man began to show indifference and the woman, all too painfully conscious of her waning power over him, began to quarrel with him. Quarrels were frequent, and she often warned him that she would kill him rather than give him up.

Two days before the tragedy she was at the house of a friend, where she was seen by a neighbor. She was then in a state of mind that she would kill him rather than give him up.

THE DYING MAN'S STATEMENT.

"Not much, although I do feel kind of queer about the whole thing. I feel as if I had been shot. You see, he went on, 'they've been trying to turn me inside out. I don't know the difference between a man and a woman, but they've just cut me up in great shape.'

"Do you expect to live?" asked Coroner Schultze. "I don't know," he replied, "but I feel as if I had been shot. You see, he went on, 'they've been trying to turn me inside out. I don't know the difference between a man and a woman, but they've just cut me up in great shape.'

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MONKEY AND PARROT ROW.

A HARLEM BARBER ACCUSED OF KEEPING TOO MUCH CHATTER ON HIS PREMISES.

IS HE A BLACKMAILER?

Friends of the Lady Stoutly Maintain Her Side of the Dispute, While the Claimant to Her Hand Declares They Have Sustained Marital Relations for Months.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

Boston, Feb. 19, 1891.—Among the passengers who left Southampton on the Spree to-day were a young man and a young woman whose return to America is awaited with very keen interest in Boston. These young people are lovers, betrothed lovers, and they come to clear up a mysterious affair of a scandalous nature, the main facts of which have been given in despatches to the Herald and thoroughly ventilated in the Boston newspapers, and which affect the fair fame of very well known persons and families in this community.

THE PARTIES.

Miss Helen Frances Smith, the young lady in the case, is the only daughter of Mr. S. D. Smith, proprietor of the Smith American Organ and Piano Company, and the young man is Mr. John N. Merrill, a Boston boy, who for ten years or so has represented Mr. Smith and his company in London. The third party, who remains in Boston, is Mr. Harry W. French, a traveler, author and lecturer of considerable repute. Miss Smith comes to denounce Mr. French as a blackmailer and a second purpose of thrashing French.

The complicated affair of the heart which lies at the bottom of all the trouble would probably have remained in obscurity in some obscure London daily if it had not been generally do-but it was actually brought out at a meeting of the church to which the Smith family and French belong—the South Evangelical Church of West Roxbury. Mr. Smith asked that French be expelled for having, in a letter to him November 15, written: "Since the middle of last February Miss Helen F. Smith has been my wife by every right, social, moral and legal, except an open marriage. She often called me her husband, asking me to call her my wife, cohabiting with me whenever she chose for six months."

This startling communication, it may well be believed, brought consternation into the Smith household. The young lady had been sent to London a fortnight before the letter was written—sent there, probably, to free her from the attentions of French, who, by the way, is a score of years her elder, and at whose house the neighbors agree, she had been a frequent visitor all the preceding summer.

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Then the interviewers for the newspapers were put at work. Smith and Mrs. Smith indignantly denied that their daughter had contracted any such unholy alliance. They admitted that she had been betrothed to French, but declared that the engagement was broken, and all between them ended before her departure for London. Hot on the heels of this denial came the news that French was in the city, and that he had been seen by the young lady herself, who was the most surprising of all in the directness and vigor with which she denied each and every statement made by French, called him a scoundrel and a blackmailer, and finally accusing him of having on one occasion made proposals to her which savored of immorality. French, who refused to say a word in reply to these charges, was then seen by the young lady, who was the most surprising of all in the directness and vigor with which she denied each and every statement made by French, called him a scoundrel and a blackmailer, and finally accusing him of having on one occasion made proposals to her which savored of immorality.

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CROSSING THE OCEAN FOR A FIGHT.

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